

Dear Energy and Technology Committee Member,

In 2008 my family installed solar hot water and in 2009 solar electric panels on our house. These two features have met 90% of our electricity needs and during peak usage times have helped reduce the need for inefficient auxiliary power sources being brought online for other houses. They have also ensured a predictable cost to us for our electricity. Since installing electric panels, we have bought a hybrid electric vehicle and have installed ductless mini-splits to improve the comfort of our home. All of these installations were by local workmen who have since returned as needed to service or maintain our investments. It was with dismay that I learned that net metering, which has worked for so many years as a strategy to help support our transition to an electric energy life style is no longer to be offered as an option in CT.

I am writing today for your support to add real solutions to HB 7251 that will ensure a healthy future for solar in Connecticut.

Connecticut needs strong solar policies to cut greenhouse gas emissions in order to meet our climate mandates. Net metering is THE critical policy behind solar development in Connecticut and across the nation.

Net metering provides a credit to solar energy producers (including residential rooftop customers and businesses) who send their extra power to the electric grid. Unfortunately, Connecticut's current net metering program was eliminated by P.A. 18-50 (SB 9) last year and is on track to be replaced by two flawed policies similar to those that have killed solar jobs in other states.

HB 7251 takes some small, helpful steps, which should be retained. Here's how you can take bolder steps and fix HB 7251 to ensure solar growth in Connecticut:

- **RESIDENTIAL SOLAR:** Connecticut's solar policies have been successful and should be continued while the value of solar analysis is done, in order to maintain the success of Connecticut's solar industry while we better evaluate new successor policies.
- **COMMERCIAL SOLAR:** Continue net metering and the LREC/ZREC program until the value of solar analysis is complete and successor programs can be reevaluated, and lift arbitrary caps on commercial solar investment that will restrict development.
- **SHARED SOLAR:** Expanding and improving the shared solar program authorized in 2018 is important to meeting Connecticut's climate mandates and making solar access more equitable. Connecticut stands to lose BIG if we don't fix this.

Our family is in support of solar in CT and of legislators who see it as a way forward to a livable future.

Sincerely,

Ms Susan Olson

109 Hopmeadow St Weatogue, CT 06089-9762 susanandrus@frontier.com